

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 4, and 7-20 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9-14, 16 and 17 are amended, claims 18-20 are added, and claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 20 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 3, 6, 9, 12, and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims;

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

As indicated below,

independent claim 1 is amended herein to incorporate the allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 3 and intervening claim 2, and

each of independent claims 7 and 13 is amended and independent claim 20 is added herein to include a novel combination of elements not suggested by the references cited by the Examiner.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 7-8, 10-11, and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawakubo et al. (U.S. JP 10-238327), and

claims 1-2, 4-5 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (U.S. 5,879,255).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claim 1

As mentioned above, and while not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, independent claim 1 is amended herein to incorporate the allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 3 and intervening claim 2. Claims 2 and 3 are now canceled.

The Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Independent Claims 7, 13 and 20

Independent claim 7 is amended to recite a combination of elements directed to an oil passage structure for an engine, including, *inter alia*

a cylinder head of the engine;

a screw type lifter of the engine, the screw type lifter having a housing mounted on the cylinder head; and

an oil passage formed so as to extend around said cylinder head, oil discharged from an oil pump of the engine being fed through said oil passage,

wherein the oil passage extends from the oil pump to an exhaust side camshaft, to an intake camshaft, and then extends outward through the cylinder head and continues in a straight line into a passage formed in the housing of the screw type lifter of the engine,

the passage in the screw type lifter extending from a flange portion of the housing, running at an acute angle with respect to a shaft of the lifter, and ending at an outer end of the shaft of the lifter,

wherein a downstream end of said oil passage is in communication with the screw type lifter of the engine.

In addition, independent claim 13 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to an oil passage structure, including, *inter alia*

a cylinder head of the engine;

a screw type lifter of the engine, the screw type lifter having a housing mounted on the cylinder head; and

an oil passage formed so as to extend around said cylinder head, oil discharged from an oil pump of the engine being fed through said oil passage,

wherein the oil passage extends from the oil pump to an exhaust side camshaft, to an intake camshaft, and then extends outward through the cylinder head and continues in a straight line into a

passage formed in the housing of the screw type lifter of the engine,

the passage in the screw type lifter extending from a flange portion of the housing, running at an acute angle with respect to a shaft of the lifter, and ending at an outer end of the shaft of the lifter.

Further, independent claim 20 is added to recite a combination of elements directed to an oil passage structure for an engine, including, *inter alia*

a tensioner arm provided in sliding-contact with a cam chain, the cam chain being adapted to reduce the speed of a crankshaft by half and transmit the resultant power to intake and exhaust camshafts of the engine for driving an intake valve and an exhaust valve of the engine; and

a lifter having a lifter rod with one end in contact with the tensioner arm, the lifter being provided in a cylinder head of the engine;

an oil passage formed so as to extend around said cylinder head, oil discharged from an oil pump of the engine being fed through said oil passage,

wherein the camshafts are rotatably supported by a plurality of cam journal walls provided in the cylinder head and a plurality of cam holders fastened to the plurality of cam journal walls, respectively,

wherein said oil passage is formed in such a manner as to pass through a contact portion between one of the plurality of cam journal walls of the cylinder head and one of the plurality of cam holders, said oil passage also passing through sliding-contact portions

between said camshafts and one of the plurality of cam journal walls and/or one of the plurality of cam holders, and

wherein a downstream end of the oil passage is in communications with the lifter.

The features of independent claims 7, 13, and 20 can be clearly seen, for example, in FIGS. 6 and 7.

By contrast, as can be seen in FIGS. 7 and 9 and paragraphs [0003], [0023], [0024], and [0033] of JP 10-238327 (see English translation attached), this document merely discloses cam shafts 65, 85, a chain tensioner 88 mounted on cylinder head 45, and a cylinder head cover 46, without any disclosure whatsoever of an oil passage extending from the oil pump to an exhaust side camshaft, to an intake camshaft, and then extending outward through the cylinder head and continuing in a straight line into a passage formed in the housing of the screw type lifter of the engine, the passage in the screw type lifter extending from a flange portion of the housing, running at an acute angle with respect to a shaft of the lifter, and ending at an outer end of the shaft of the lifter (as set forth in claims 7 and 13 of the present invention); and

without any disclosure whatsoever of an oil passage formed in such a manner as to pass through a contact portion between one of the plurality of cam journal walls of the cylinder head and one of the plurality of cam holders, said oil passage also passing through sliding-contact portions between said camshafts and one of the plurality of cam journal walls and/or one of the plurality of cam holders (as set forth in claim 20 of the present application).

Therefore, at least for the reasons stated above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 7, 13, and 20 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including JP 10-238327.

Therefore, independent claims 7, 13, and 20 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 4, 9-12, 14, 16, and 17 are amended to place them in proper form, and dependent claims 18 and 19 are added to set forth additional novel features of the invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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PCL:CTT/ags /adt:trb

Attachment: English translation of JP 10-238327 (Note: Reference To JP Patent On Page 14)